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*Norsk lutherske prester i Amerika, 1843-1913.* By O. M. NORLIE, in collaboration with K. SEEHUUS, M. O. WEE, A. M. ARNTZEN, A. L. WIEK, and L. LILLEHEI. (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1914. 624 p.)

*Den norsk lutherske kirkes historie i Amerika.* By REV. JOHAN A. BERGH. (Minneapolis, 1914. 528 p.)

*Den forenede norsk lutherske kirke i Amerika.* By REV. O. M. NORLIE, PH.D., PD.D. (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1914. 104 p.)

*Fra ungdomsaar: An oversigt over den forenede norsk lutherske kirkes historie og fremskridt i de svundne femogtyve aar.* Edited by N. C. BRUN. (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1915. 371 p.)

As a part of a very considerable output of books in the Norwegian language by the Augsburg Publishing House of Minneapolis, there are four recent publications dealing with the history of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in the United States. These books constitute a positive contribution to the history of the Norwegian element in the United States, for the church has exercised a deep influence upon the life of the Scandinavians in this country, and its history is intimately related to the history of this immigrant force. The economic contributions of immigrants to the United States are not difficult to estimate. On the other hand, the social results of their settlement and amalgamation with American life are more undefinable. But fundamental to an understanding of the contribution of the Scandinavians to American character and institutions is a true interpretation of the spiritual forces at work among them.

The first of these volumes contains brief biographies of 1,826 Norwegian Lutheran pastors and theological professors who have been active in the United States during the seven decades from 1843 to 1913. As an introduction to the biographical section there is a carefully prepared history of Norwegian immigration from 1825 to 1913, and of the organization and progress of the work of the Lutheran Church among the Norwegian immigrants. A brief survey of the fourteen synods which have been organized during this period is included. A number of charts greatly increase the value of these sections. One of the most valuable

features of the book is the summary of the literary activity of the pastors and professors whose biographies are included. There is added a list of newspapers and periodicals published by Norwegian-Americans, with dates of publication and names of editors. A complete index of names concludes the book. The volume was prepared by trained scholars, and should prove as valuable as it is reliable and complete.

The second title may be translated "History of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America." The author, a graduate of Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis, was ordained as a minister in 1871, and since 1890 has been a member of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. He has thus been both a spectator and a participant of a considerable portion of the development which he describes. The inclusion of many original documents and citations of sources increases the value of a work which is not particularly critical. The theological strifes in the Norwegian Lutheran Church have been extremely bitter, and the accounts of these struggles consume no small portion of the work. The author writes from the standpoint of a pastor of the United Church. Recently there has been a strong movement for a union of three large Norwegian synods, and this movement is elaborately discussed. While the author makes no attempt to analyze the religious contribution of the Norwegian Lutherans to American life, he does recognize Americanization as inevitable and urges the church to keep abreast of the movement of transition by adopting the English language in its services wherever there is a need for it. The figures presented by Rev. Mr. Bergh of the progress of the church are significant. The work was begun in 1843 in Muskego, Wisconsin, with one congregation, 69 members, and two ministers. Seventy years later there were 1,354 ministers and professors, 3,398 congregations with about 500,000 members in six synods, with five theological seminaries, two normal schools, nine colleges, and twenty-seven academies.

The last two volumes relate to the largest synod among the Norwegian-Lutherans—the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. Rev. Dr. Norlie's book particularly is a scholarly account of the organization and activity of that synod. The last work, edited by Rev. N. C. Brun, was published in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of that church body. It is a popular, illustrated

book, in thirty chapters, and reveals the virtues as well as the shortcomings of collaboration. From the American standpoint the chapter dealing with the work done by the church in the English language is of special interest. The figures there given indicate that the foreign language is steadily giving way to the English, and that the church, realizing this, is taking steps to meet the resultant problems.

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*Voyages of the Norsemen to America (Scandinavian Monographs, 1).* By WILLIAM HOVGAARD, late commander in the royal Danish navy and professor of naval design and construction in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (New York, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 1914. xxi, 304 p.)

The American-Scandinavian Foundation is to be congratulated on the attractive appearance and scholarly character of the first volume of its *Scandinavian Monographs*. Professor Hovgaard's interest in the subject began with a study of the "means and methods of navigation possessed by the Norsemen, and of the bearing of these features on the question of the discovery of America." From this the work gradually developed into an orderly presentation and critical discussion of all the available evidence, whether historical, geographical, ethnological, or botanical. The conclusions reached are that the early explorations of the Norsemen probably reached the coast of Massachusetts, but that the later expedition for purposes of settlement did not get south of Newfoundland and failed of its purpose because of attacks by the Indians and internal strife.

A passage of especial interest to the people of Minnesota occurs on page 116 under the heading "Ruins and Inscriptions found in America." It reads as follows: "The so-called Kensington Stone, found in Minnesota, bears a runic inscription, but it has been conclusively shown by Professor G. T. Flom to be a recent forgery."

A large number of excellent illustrations and several folding maps add to the value of the work. The bibliography, though not critical, is useful, but the index is inadequate.

S. J. B.